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become economically and politically independent. When independent she will not only cease to tolerate imposition by foreign powers, but will assert rights which even minor Western nations enjoy in determining the conditions of their intercourse with foreigners. The book everywhere shows careful investigation and thoughtful reflection. It might profitably be read in connection with Hon. John W. Foster's "American Diplomacy in the Orient."

READINGS IN ENGLISH HISTORY DRAWN FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCES. By Edward P. Cheney, Professor of European History in the University of Pennsylvania. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1908. 781 pages.

To be a good internationalist one must know other countries than his own, and there is no better way of knowing them from books than by reading their lives in the original records or the contemporary accounts of the events that make up their history. Mr. Cheney's "Readings in English History" brings the life of England before us in extracts from memoirs, chronicles, diaries, letters, acts of Parliament, proceedings of councils, reports of ministers, and speeches of great men. He begins with the early geography of Great Britain and comes down through the Celtic, Saxon, Danish and Norman periods, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the times of the French and American Revolutions and the era of the Reform Bill, to the most recent events in the development of the British democracy. To illustrate his method in dealing with the more recent past, the Civil War in America may be taken. In connection with it he gives John Bright's speech made at a public dinner at Rochdale, which had strong influence in keeping England on terms of friendship with America. The personality of Mr. Bright and the political atmosphere which surrounded him at the time are both in the speech. The book will serve an important purpose for teachers and students, and cannot fail to be useful to the general reader.

RUSO-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. By James Morton Callahan. West Virginia University: Morgantown, W. Va. 1908. 18 pages.

Mr. Callahan explains by extracts from diplomatic dispatches, correspondence of Secretary Seward, recollections of distinguished men, and speeches made at banquets, the traditional friendship between Russia and the United States. He shows that Russia refused to join Europe in a plan for intervention in the time of our Civil War, and, as a proof of her sympathy for the government of the United States, sent a fleet to American waters under sealed orders which authorized it to act under our government in case of European interference. Fraternal feelings between the two countries were carried so far at one time that a Russo-American alliance was predicted. The purchase of Alaska was doubtless in part due to a feeling of obligation to Russia for friendly services during the Civil War. With a fine editorial sense and a readable style, Mr. Callahan has made this, the first of the West Virginia studies in American history, an available and interesting study.

TEXTS OF THE PEACE CONFERENCES AT THE HAGUE, 1899 AND 1907. With English Translation and Appen-

dix of Related Documents. Edited, with an introduction, by James Brown Scott, solicitor of the State Department and Technical Delegate of the United States to the Second Hague Conference. 447 pages. Boston: Ginn & Co.

Dr. Scott has done an invaluable service to the students of the work and results of the two Hague Conferences by the preparation of this volume. The aim of the work is to present to the English-speaking peoples the official French texts of the conventions and declarations of the two Conferences, accompanied by an official English translation and such explanations as will enable one easily to understand the true significance of what was done. The diplomatic correspondence preceding the Conferences is given, and an appendix is added of documents relating to and explanatory of the various conventions. The French text is a faithful reproduction of the official copies in the Department of State, and the English text likewise reproduces the official text in the Department. A prefatory note by the Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State, states the importance of the Conferences, and an introduction by the editor supplies the necessary historical setting. An elaborate analytical index shows the relation of each article to its predecessor, and enables the student to trace the origin, development and modification of the doctrine as well as to distinguish additions made in revision of the various conventions.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE AS A PROOF OF DESIGN IN CREATION. By John Phin. New York: The Industrial Publication Co. 191 pages. Price, net \$1.25.

This is a remarkably fresh and interesting book. It is an attempt to restate the argument from design from the point of view of the inorganic world, at least so far as concerns the composition of the atmosphere. The author believes that the argument from design as put forward by Paley and others has been much discredited, if not entirely overthrown, by the doctrine of the evolution of plant and animal life. But he undertakes to show that the principle of design is supported in a remarkable and unanswerable way by what he calls the evolution of the atmosphere as the condition of the life of animals and plants on the earth. He writes as a man thoroughly versed in the principles of science. He is the author of "How to Use the Microscope," "The Seven Follies of Science," etc. He follows faithfully the logic of scientific facts in the development of his contention, and presents his reasoning in language that is unusually simple, clear and forcible. Only an elementary knowledge of physics and chemistry is necessary to enable one to read the book intelligently. The perusal of it will awaken anew the sense of wonder at the marvels of the universe in which we live, and more particularly of the atmosphere on which we are dependent at every moment of our earthly lives.

DOCUMENTARY SOURCE BOOK OF AMERICAN HISTORY. By William MacDonald, Professor of History in Brown University. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1908. 616 pages. Price, \$1.75 net.

This is a collection of the most important documents in American history. It is selected from other works